



Iowa Council for Early ACCESS
Foxboro Conference Center
Minutes
September 21, 2007

Members Present: Kyla Alba, Scott Beall, Nancy Bobo, Mary Jane Brotherson, Angela Burke Boston, LaMark Combs, Gina Greene, Andrew Hall, Kelly Hancock, Ron Koch, Jan Mackey, Troy McCarthy, Barb Merrill, Carolyn Nelson, Mary Nelson, Pablo Quintanilla, Maureen Schletzbaum, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Deb Sixta, Carrie Soddors, Mary Stevens, David Van Horn, and Shanell Wagler,

Excused: Daryl Beall, Jane Borst, Jeff Lobas, Pamela Noel, Brian Wilkes

Staff: Julie Curry, Barb Khal, Kelly Schulte, Lisa Sharp and Susan White (Interim Secretary)

Guests: Lisa Naig and Cindy Weigel

Call to Order:

Troy called the meeting to order and introductions of Council members took place. Quorum is established.

Approval of May 2007 Minutes:

Troy entertained a motion for approval of the May 18, 2007 minutes. A motion was introduced to make corrections. On page 3 under topic "Department of Public Health" Tom Newton is not Division Lead. He is the Department's Director. Council approved minutes after changes were entered.

Contact Sheet:

Troy distributed the Council's contact sheet and asked members to make edits to their contact information. Susan will make changes and have an updated sheet at the next meeting.

Lead Agency Update:

LauraBelle, the new Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief, gave a summary of the Bureau's work and staff by distributing a chart of each program and which staff member is responsible for its work. She also distributed a copy of the breakdown of the Department of Education.

Handouts: Early Childhood Services Bureau Chart and Department of Education Breakdown.

Office of Special Education Programs:

LauraBelle shared some great news. Iowa was one of 14 states and territories that received a “Meets Requirements” for the state’s Part C Annual Performance Report (APR). There are only a few compliance targets not yet met. They are in Transition and Evaluation in 45 day timeline. We continue to work on strategies to improve in those areas. Federal expectations for accountability remain high.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA):

The Department of Education as Lead Agency is entering into an interagency agreement with the signatory partners in the state. Those entering into this agreement are Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Child Health Specialty Clinics. There has been a meeting to discuss the commitment of resources and efforts that each signatory partner will make so Early ACCESS system has a strong foundation. During the next Council meeting, a draft of the MOA will be presented for final review.

Unified Procedures Across the State:

The Area Education Agency Directors of Special Education have agreed to use a unified procedures manual for Early ACCESS and Special Education (Birth to age 21). There will be one set of procedures across the state that will reduce fragmentation and confusion of interagency partners whose borders differ than AEAs. It will also increase the consistency across AEA Regions and reduce confusion for families. The Part B procedures will be finished by June 2008. Early ACCESS will start work this year to prepare the Part C procedures.

ICEA Committee reports:

Parent: The summer get-together had to be cancelled. The committee will be planning another get-together for later this year.

By Laws: No Report.

Nominating: A slate was put forward and voted on and approved today.

Membership: Nitya Brenner had to remove her application as a new member as she accepted a job in South Dakota.

Public Policy: No report.

Governor’s Report: The Governor’s report has been finalized and each Council member may take 5 copies to distribute to their constituents. Susan White will place this report on the DE website.

Election of Officers:

The names nominated were given to the Executive Committee for approval and at the September 12 meeting; the Executive Committee approved the nominations. David asked for additional nominations from the Council. No additional names were entered. Mary Nelson entertained a motion to close nominations and Council so moved. The election of officers approved was Troy McCarthy, Chair; Kelly Hancock, Vice-Chair; Carrie Soddors and Carolyn Nelson.

Family Survey Data:

Lisa informed the Council that the I-Star data collection system is up and running for the Family Survey. A sampling of families involved in Early ACCESS was asked to complete the survey. 100% of the sample for the Family Survey from each region was successfully collected. The information gained from the survey is used to measure Indicator C4 and tells us how well Early ACCESS is enhancing families' abilities to help their children. The 100% return rate will increase our confidence in the results.

Part C Proposed Regulations:

The Department of Education had submitted comments about the IDEA Part C proposed Regulations last month to the Office of Special Education Program in Washington, D.C. The Council had used those comments to guide their comments, which were also submitted. Thomas Mayes, Legal Consultant at DE, informed members of the thinking behind the comments made to the Part C Proposed Regulations. If you want to learn more about regulations you may log onto *regulations.gov*.

Handout: Department of Education, Part C, Comments Letter to Alexa Posney

Executive Committee Update:

Troy provided Council members a written report outlining topics discussed at the summer Executive Committee meetings.

Handout: Lead Agency & Iowa Council for Early ACCESS September 2007 Update

ICEA Committee Break outs:

Troy asked the members to break into their committees to allow new members time to ask questions and hear about the committee activities before selecting a committee to join.

Sharing:

Members took this time to share activities and information from constituents.

Next Early ACCESS Council Meeting:

Friday, November 16, 2007. Location: The meeting location had to be moved to the Ramada Inn-Northwest at 5000 Merle Hay Rd in Des Moines., 515-278-0271-directions will be attached.